1

[1857?]

Weymouth Landing
March 15th

Dear Mr May

Many thanks for your kindness. We have time enough yet, as I need not make up my account till I publish it as a part of the usual anniversary circular, in April or

after, as I can get time. – And I am under the necessity of waiting till I can get answers from friends abroad about some of these matters. For example – one friend writes to me – 'I subscribe so many pounds, & want my name to go on, though the money may not reach you in season'

So I enter the name on the "Roll of Battle Abbey" (so to speak) – the roll of

there that came on the other side of the channel we crossed, & write to my friend, 'Did that sum send to a Banker by that other Banker, come from you?" & so on & so on. It will be ready by the time I shall want it; & I shall see you doubtless at the office many times.

Of the sums in the Standard take no cognisance in any way. Some

are corrections, — some
repetitions, some pay'ts
of pledges. But I think
the sum total will ex-
ceed the approximative
summary, when I come
to close up this year's ac-
count. A pledge or two, possibly, may re-
main unpaid but it would not be for the promo-
tion of the cause for me to ask for them. I have been thinking
much of your good family's
fatigues at the homoeopathic
Fair, but the success has re-
paid them, & their pres-
ence there as good as
an Anti-Slavery lecture.
I wish I could have
seen you to have read to
you my letter to Barnes

Ms B.1.6 V.6 #52

had your time, (as I know your kindness would have done,) permitted. I wanted to have had Mr Whipple & Mr Pillsbury see it, but I could not get at them, nor get time to copy — so I read it to Mr Garrison & Mr. Phillips. Not that it was worth their time as a letter. Only it took the matter by the practical head, by way of trial as to whether the controversial one was in this instance necessary. Our orthodox methods are sometimes the only ones practicable.

as in Stearns's Almanac & in the Independent. Such has been the exclusive training of Brother Pillsbury & Brother Foster, & they often treat Metaphysically & Theologically what would yield better under different mode of approach.

It is, for example, my belief that H. Ward Beecher, in his inexcusably lax State of mind, as to orthodoxy (inexcusable because he claims to be orthodox knowing he is not,) & his sinful delay in Anti-Slavery, (not having a particle of the sacred fire - all his fuel having burnt into sentimental ashes) feels a

worldly sneer, as if from
the world he is seeking, a
great deal more than
church-tests or Anti-Slavery-
platform tests. We are to
hope that the Standard
discussion will do good by
gratifying excellent friends
& A. S. brethren who squint some
to right-hand extremes, & some
to left hand-defections. But to
most readers (if readers we
had) it would be so much
skip. I am sure it will
do good, but not to have
done it would have done
more good. The time has
just for seizing such men

& holding their horses' heads
up to the fight to try to make
leaders of them. We must
even be content to lead ourselves
for want of better, & I wish
Stephen would lead off himself
not off from us I beg — but
save individual attack for indivi-
dual time & money. Neither
he nor brother Hovey have
~~of time, money or labour~~
an exact idea of the exact division
of time money or labour, & with entire
devotedness sometimes, as well as
bro. Pillsbury, attack the wrong per-
son in the wrong place, &
sometimes the right person
in the wrong place, —
as in the present instance.
But, as I don't have much

Ms B 1.6 V.6 #52

come to my mind as case-hardened about criticism (I believe he was quite the contrary) & do not love to do it in public (preferring "first step & second step" private methods, as Moses used to stigmatise friendly observations) and feel free to have an opinion I may be delicate about expressing generally, to a brother's discredit. Bro. Hovey has taken the step that will make it impossible to dismiss O. S. now, much as he wishes it. For to do so would be to place ourselves in the position of sacrificing him to Ward Beecher. Bro. Hovey says—"I should be disposed to wind up that concern in N. Y. unless Pillsbury or

Ms B. 1. 6 V. 6 #52

Howard Gilbert could be
made Editor." These
are good Brethren, both
preferable to Oliver on
some accounts: But East
the Standard they simply
could not. One would be
Inpugnaciously faithful to his
[with no knowledge but of the small section of the N.E. orthodox world he was framed in,]
own idea, & the other
would be "sternly & femininely
[& unbelievingly true &]
Elegant", without any of
the ways or knowledge
of any world whatever.
Now How should you or I
look getting up in Meeting
& saying all this? It is
what they call "God's truth," however.
I hardly like to say it even
to you, in this plentiful

of my regard for them all,
& you could not vex me
more than to tell of it.
When the proper time
came for replacing Oli-
ver we could not find the
man. Now the time is
for the present gone by;
& Oliver improving so rap-
idly under the Boston
training instead of
the Methods of Mr.
Gay, that I trust we
shall soon have a
hold on New-York city
& State. But it is the
World we should chiefly
look to & labor with.

[Left margin, written vertically:] ...all section of the N. E. orthodox would be won [illegible] in,

Over the church this matter has gone; & the church methods, (metaphysical ones, — founded on "the science of invisible things" as Dr Johnson defined it) have become, ever since 1847, less & less suitable. They were perfect in their adaptability till '37. Then the cause went over the church, in spite of Tappan & Sturge & the like which were not overcome till '47. Now in '57, our way into the world was clear. There are fifty other ways just as good as this of asking the world to stand by us to set the outcast in the gate. (& the

I am free to say, because I have been so constantly in writing this line— And they should all be public. Secrecy weakens. Conspiracy demoralizes. "Higginson-ism" (hence that crotchety individual will, like "Lofty" in the Good-natured man "make public proclamation that he holds private intelligence", I know no better name to give the notion of doing so,—) is bad for Pillsbury's constitution, & I wish it could be emptied out of him. But he must suit himself — it is his responsibility to be filled with the melancholy wind if he will. I did not take it kindly, though I knew he meant it, & so i.e. it was a proof of folly in him, when he gave me a malignant rheumatism in the papers, any more than Annie will when she

from the 'organ'

learns, what a compen-
sation her usefulness is for
her absence: (Perhaps
Wm. Plummer will like
just as little to be snatched
from the side of Julia, by
You, & pinned to the Ant-
Loe by me. But I would
do it by publishing an extract from Stanthals. Of two things appa-
rently, to outsiders the same,
one may be needless eulogy
or self-eulogy — the other
May be a signal-rocket tossed
up for guidance from
East to West.) and as
people with the occupancy
of any office of importance
do not increase their
chance of being estima-

ted as fit for it, by proclaiming that they enjoy bad health, I do not think any good will be done by saying, beyond our own limits, that Pillsbury is sick. & yet that is, I suppose, the root of his mental malaise. he was well & bright in mind when he returned from England, & resisted the temptation to Misanthropy which is his original sin for a long time. Can you wonder he or any body else should have it?

Good Englishmen who have held up America as an example, are now swearing in the spirit

that "in an appreciable time, that country will not be one that an honest man can live in." That cheers us. We have known for exactly one life-time, what living in this country is to an honest man. It is not that things are better that it is known how bad they have been. E. G. Lee Nathaniel Matthews as post office correspondent in the Daily advertiser. I take this occasion to say that half the population, the women like the change. I suppose every body does but the representatives of great embodyments of Capital. The Boston, what argument ~~[illegible]~~ is that it seems as if the post

ms B 1 . 6

office ought to be the creature of Business. It ought much more to be the creature of friendship, relationship, humanity, population.

Now never say I never wrote you a letter, Dear Mr May, This is what I should have said if you could have come to Weymouth, or I to Leicester, so you may call it gossip if you will.

N. B. In my post office appreciation, note that I am a party interested. It is such a convenience, to me who am not a business person

keeping a clerk or errand
boy, to be able to go &
get & carry my letters!
You need only take into
the estimate of what my
appreciation is worth, that
the Chapman-estate is
opposite almost, to the Ladies
door, & not that the prop-
erty will be improved in
value.

Your Cousin & my
brother May, begged me
to write ~~him~~ a gossiping
letter to meet him in
England in the Spring. Is
it time to write it
yet? With kindest

regards to all your family, in which mine unite;

I am

Yours aff. friend

M. W. Chapman.

We hear of the continuance of the slight improvement in my sister's health in Rome.

Ms B. 1. 6 V. 6 # 52